

ABSTRACT

A communication apparatus and method that enables a user to effect a change of telephone number, at will, without involving any technical support, or service provider personnel. Publishing a user's telephone number to a predefined list of third parties is also provided. Verification of the forwarded telephone number is provided as well as the ability of a user to invite or reject forwarded calls to accept or reject calls. Call management rules, affecting incoming calls, on a call by call, or calling party by calling party basis is provided on a case by case basis. These rules may further be applied to calling groups.

10 The user may express the current user mode and indicate whether the user can be reached or not. Additional information related to calling parties utilizing a proprietary server or other third party directories, databases and the like can also be obtained. Further, authorized third party callers can communicate directly with the user's call management system. The user's handset may be locked, 15 unlocked by the reception of a reception of a pre-defined short message transmitted via a corresponding server. The lock can be removed by entry of a valid PIN code on the keypad of the cellular phone. Further, the owner may place a permanent lock on the cellular phone, such that no calls can be made or received if the handset is stolen or lost. This lock can only be removed by the 20 manufacturer of the cellular phone, or authorized agencies. Additionally, the owner may erase all memory contents of the cellular phone by reception of a pre-defined message.